REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The present application includes pending claims 1-21, all of which have been rejected. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 and 7-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,044,471 ("Colvin"). Claims 5 and 6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin in view of United States Patent No. 5,748,084 ("Ishikoff"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections at least for the reasons previously set forth during prosecution and the following:

I. Colvin Does Not Anticipate Claims 1-4 And 7-21

The Applicants first turn to the rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Colvin. With regard to the anticipation rejections under 102(b), MPEP 2131 states that "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *See* Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) at 2131 (internal citation omitted). Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *See id.* (internal citation omitted).

Colvin discloses "a method and apparatus and methods for securing software to reduce unauthorized use include associating a password or series of passwords with each copy of group of authorized software and requiring entry of a first password obtained from the developer or authorized representative of the software after exchanging registration information." *See* Colvin at Abstract. However, with regard to the rejection of independent claim 1 under Colvin, the Applicants submit that Colvin does not disclose or suggest at least the limitation of

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"registering a communication device deployed at a location that is communicatively coupled to the communication network," as claimed by the Applicants in independent claim 1. Referring to FIG. 1 of Colvin, Colvin discloses a method and apparatus for protecting software using passwords that are supplied by a password administrator to an end user of the software. *See* Colvin at Abstract. More specifically, Colvin discloses that passwords may be created by a password administrator and the created passwords may be supplied by an authorized representative of the protected software to a potential user of the software. *See* Colvin, column 4, lines 6-32. After the user supplies the authorized representative with registration information, the authorized representative may supply the user with a password that may be used to install the software. *See* Colvin, column 4, lines 33-54. In this regard, **Colvin does not disclose or suggest registering a communication device deployed at a location that is coupled to a communication network.**

Furthermore, the Applicants submit that Colvin does not disclose or suggest at least the limitation of "receiving validation information relating to the communication device, the validation information entered via the communication device," as claimed by the Applicants in independent claim 1. Colvin discloses that "the end user must contact the authorized representative for the software, such as password administrator 24, to obtain appropriate authorization code or password as indicated generally by arrows 36." *See* Figure 1 of Colvin and column 4, lines 33-42. In this regard, **Colvin does not teach receiving validation information relating to the communication device where the validation information is entered via the communication device,** as disclosed and claimed by the present invention.

Additionally, the Applicants submit that Colvin does not disclose or suggest at least the limitation of "determining whether the communication device is

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authorized for use in the communication network, based on at least the validation information entered via the communication device," as claimed by the Applicants in independent claim 1. Referring to Figure 1 of Colvin, Colvin discloses that a password or authorization code is required by the software to function properly. *See* Colvin, column 4, lines 33-35. Furthermore, the password administrator obtains registration information from the end user and provides the end user with an appropriate password or authorization code to the software for purposes of installing the software. *See* Colvin, column 4, lines 39-42. In this regard, **no validation information is entered via a communication device and no determination is made whether a communication device is authorized for use in the communication network,** as claimed by the Applicants in claim 1.

Independent claims 7 and 9 are system claims that contain claim limitations that are analogous to the claim limitations of independent claim 1. Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicants believe the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Colvin has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 2-6, 8, and 10-14 depend from independent claims 1, 7, and 9, respectively, and are, consequently, also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

With regard to the rejection of independent claim 15 under Colvin, the Applicants submit that Colvin does not disclose or suggest at least the limitation of "a storage device residing in a first home environment," and "a media device residing in a second home environment," as claimed by the Applicants in independent claim 15. Referring to FIG. 1 of Colvin, Colvin discloses a method and apparatus for protecting software using passwords that are supplied by a password administrator to an end user of the software. *See* Colvin, column 4, lines 6-54. In this regard, Colvin does not disclose or suggest a storage device in a first home environment and a media device in a second home environment, as disclosed and claimed by the present invention.

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Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicants believe the rejection of independent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Colvin has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 16-21 depend from independent claim 15 and are, consequently, also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

II. The Combination of Colvin and Ishikoff Does Not Render Claims 5 And 6 Unpatentable

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 5 and 6 as being unpatentable over Colvin in view of Ishikoff. The Office Action concedes that "Colvin fails to teach of determining the location of the device and notifying an authority of the location of the communication device if it has been reported stolen." See the Office Action, page 6.

A. The Proposed Combination of Colvin and Ishikoff Does Not Teach the Limitations of Claim 1

The Applicants submit that since claims 5 and 6 depend on independent claim 1, dependent claims 5 and 6 are allowable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to allowability of independent claim 1.

B. The Proposed Combination of Colvin and Ishikoff Does Not Teach Notifying the Authorities

In order to overcome this deficiency, the Final Office Action relies on Ishikoff. In particular, the Final Office Action cites Ishikoff at column 1, lines 59-65, which states the following:

> When theft of the computer occurs, however, the beacon is activated with a security control program to secure crucial data in the computer's storage, to enable or disable functions of the computer, and to either transmit or destroy or hide sensitive data. The

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beacon's transmission signal is preferably also trackable to locate and recover the stolen computer.

The Applicants submit that **activating a beacon signal is not equivalent to notifying the authorities,** as claimed by the Applicants in claim 6. Furthermore, Ishikoff defines the purpose of the beacon as to "recover or destroy important data, or to disable the computer." *See* Ishikoff, column 3, lines 46-50.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicants believe the rejection of claims 5 and 6 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin in view of Ishikoff has been overcome and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Application. No. 10/672,907
Response to Office Action of 25-JAN-2006   Attorney Docket No. 14829US02
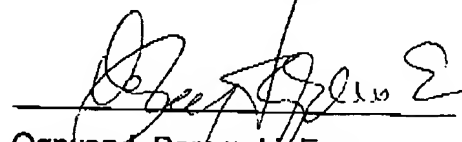
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant believes that all claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests a phone interview, and requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 312-775-8176.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

A Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 16-FEB-06

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